

## Daily News: Conroy Urges Payback for Life Sciences Backing

Rep. Conroy urges payback for life sciences backing

By By Lindsey Parietti, DAILY NEWS STAFF

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WAYLAND - Freshman state Rep. Thomas Conroy, D-Wayland, revealed his plan yesterday to ensure the state gets something back for its potential \$1 billion life sciences investment.

"We don't want to be handing out grants and saying, 'Here's a bunch of money, good luck have fun,' " Conroy said after a MetroWest Chamber of Commerce forum with local lawmakers at Framingham State College.

Conroy said companies and scientists who receive grants and tax breaks should return the favor by keeping their business here, or by offering the state a share in future success.

Stressing the urgency of drawing new business to the commonwealth, Gov. Deval Patrick earlier this year proposed the life sciences bill, but failed to push it through the Legislature before the holiday recess.

Half of Patrick's current proposal would pay for the infrastructure needs of biotech companies that want to expand in or move to Massachusetts.

Genzyme, which needs upgrades to Framingham's water and sewer systems to carry out a planned \$260 million expansion on New York Avenue, is among the companies waiting for action on the bill.

Conroy, who sits on the Economic Development Committee that will hold a public hearing on the bill next week, said legislators still need to fill in the details of distributing the remaining \$500 million among a life sciences center, grants and incentives.

"Maybe we give a tax credit but in return get 10,000 shares (in the company) ... an established profitable company, to them 10,000 shares is not going to mean anything, but to the commonwealth and a revolving trust fund it means a lot," he said.

Conroy said he is still formulating his plan to tie financial assistance to stocks or other equity, but that Rep. Daniel Bosley, D-North Adams, the House leadership's point person on economic development, seemed favorable to the idea.

Bosley's office could not be reached for comment yesterday afternoon.

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